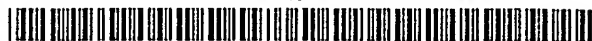


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(54) Title: METHOD FOR SCREENING MODULATORS OF THE IMMUNE SYSTEM

(57) Abstract: A method for determining whether a factor is a modulator of the transmission of immunity from a female mammal to newborn mammals by consumption of milk from the female. A female mammal, such as a BALB/C female mouse, is exposed to the factor, and then immunized to one or more antigens. The female is then made to lactate, and newborn mammals are allowed to consume milk obtained from the lactating female. The newborns are then inoculated with the one or more antigens. The level of immunity in the newborns to the one or more antigens is then compared to that in control newborns that received milk from a female that was immunized against the one or more antigens but not exposed to the factor. A difference between the level of immunity to the one or more antigens in the experimental newborns and the control newborns is indicative that the factor is a modulator of the transmission of immunity to the one or more antigens from a female mammal to newborn mammals by consumption of milk from the female.

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